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# Annual Report

OF THE

## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

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BOURNE, APRIL 6TH, 1915.

*To the Bourne Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the past year I must ask you to excuse the delay on account of the late excessive amount of sickness and of extra duties incurred in consequence of this lamentable war; for the same reason may I ask your indulgence if I limit the Report to a brief comment on each of the subjects on which information is desired by the Local Government Board.

**The District and its Characters.** Under this heading there is nothing new to record, it is still almost entirely agricultural, and consequently the conditions of life of the bulk of the inhabitants are healthy, even if hard. It should be noted that the wages of agricultural labourers have not increased in anything like the same proportion as those of men employed in all other pursuits, and certainly not in propor-

tion to the increased cost of living. It may be however that the scarcity of men will result in the finding of remunerative employment for a certain percentage of the women and adolescent youth.

**Vital Statistics.** It is impossible to write cheerfully on this subject, for whilst on the one hand both the general mortality and the infantile mortality are above the average, on the other hand the Birth Rate has dropped much below the normal rate for the District.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 67; deducting from this 12 of non-residents who died in the Union Workhouse, and adding 11 inhabitants who died either in Rauceby Asylum or Peterboro' or Stamford Infirmaries, there results 66 actual deaths during the year, which gives an average of 15·2 per thousand as against your previous 10 year average of 13·6.

Of these deaths 20 are attributable to the effects of old age, whilst 11 were infants, under one year old.

Cancer or Malignant Growth was responsible for 8 deaths during the year, but 4 of these were 68 years of age or over.

Infectious Diseases claimed 10 victims and of course Tuberculosis heads the list with 6 deaths, 1 from Pulmonary Phthisis and 5 from other Tuberculous disease. Two deaths from Measles and 2 from Influenza complete the list.

The Infantile Mortality, or deaths under one year of age, was 11, which gives a Death-rate of 157·1 per 1000 infants born and compares with your previous 10 year average of 120·3. This total is principally made up of 4 instances of Premature Birth and 3 cases of Infantile Diarrhœa, due to the hot weather.

The Birth-rate stands out as the most disquieting feature in my Report. The total number of Births attributable to your District was only 70, which gives the miserable average of 15·9

per thousand. This establishes a record of which your District should be anything but proud. The previous lowest was an average rate of 18·8 in 1911, and before that the lowest rate was 20·2.

**Infectious Diseases.** During the past year there were 25 cases of notifiable Infectious Disease, viz.:—Scarlatina 14, Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 2, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2, Tuberculosis (other forms) 4.

Of the Scarlatina cases all except one occurred in children living in widely different parts of the town but all attending the infants' class at the County Schools in Abbey Road.

I inspected the Class-room and its inmates in the endeavour to find the "contact" but without success, and therefore deemed it necessary to close that portion of the School for a period of three weeks.

Of the two Diphtheric cases one occurred in a scholar who was attending school at Stamford, where this malady was at the time very prevalent, and the infection was without doubt contracted there.

Of the two cases of Tuberculosis of the Lung, one has died and the other is under treatment in a Sanatorium.

The four cases of Tuberculous Disease, other than lung, all terminated fatally during the year.

**Isolation of Infectious Cases.** I am glad to be able to report that the permanent Infectious Hospital of the Rural District Council situated in your area is now practically ready for occupation, and to put on record that the District Council have agreed to receive and treat your infectious cases in consideration of your payment of the annual sum of £65 for the first five cases and a further fee of £2 per week for any subsequent cases during the year.

You will have also the advantage of the District Council's Ambulance and Disinfector.

The Local Government Board, no doubt wishing to be fore-armed, are making anxious enquiries as to the means or proposed means of dealing with cases of Small-pox. Following every previous great war there has been an aftermath of virulent epidemic disease, notably Small-pox, and we have little reason to expect that in this instance precedent will not be followed. I could almost prophesy that it will. May I quote you a former prophecy from my Report for 1912? "For signs are not wanting that before many years are past England will need all the sturdy manhood she can call her own."

Just one more quotation from my Report of 1908. "As no doubt you are aware there came into force on the 1st of January a fresh regulation to facilitate exemption from Vaccination, and this has been made use of to such an extent as to make the Vaccination Act practically obsolete in this District. After a few years of such a course all protection will have vanished, and if then an outbreak of Small-pox occurs (for Small-pox is by no means extinct), how will your District fare? Without any effective means of isolation the result would indeed be grave and there would be little blame to be attached to the Sanitary Officers if they failed to control the outbreak when the weapon on which they most relied had been taken from them."

I would therefore urge your Council to proceed without delay to formulate a plan for the treatment of a probable or problematical case of virulent infectious disease.

As a minimum you should :—

- (1) Select some suitable remote spot in your District and enter into an arrangement with the proprietor for the optional use of it.
- (2) Arrange with the owner of a good-sized tent for the optional immediate possession of it.

**Water Supply.** The purely Urban part of your District continues to be supplied by the Bourne Waterworks Company with water at natural pressure from Artesian Wells, which is both pure and plentiful. In the Rural parts there have been sunk, as in previous years, more bores for the pure artesian water, which now almost universally supersedes the shallow well—or even drain water formerly used.

**Sewage Disposal.** Sewage is disposed of by either Privy Vaults or properly flushed W.C.'s. Of the former there are about 498 and of the latter 415, whilst during the year 16 Privies have been superseded by W.C.'s, and this conversion is being steadily insisted upon wherever in your District the water supply renders it feasible.

The enlarged Sewage-beds have worked quite satisfactorily during the year, and the Weir Dyke which receives the effluent has been thoroughly cleaned out from end to end.

**Refuse Disposal.** The system of house-to-house collection of refuse has proceeded satisfactorily and the complaint in my last Report of laxity on the part of certain householders to provide proper covered receptacles has been to a great extent remedied.

**Housing Accommodation.** The six Cottages erected by your Council during the year were immediately let, and the fact that there are now several applications for one of them before any actual intimation has been given that it will be vacant should be sufficient proof that more are wanted.

Apart from these only two cottages of a superior type letting at 5/- per week and two villas have been built during the year.

Details of the Inspection of the District under the Housing Regulations are as under :—

Houses inspected under and for the purpose of

Section 17 of the Act of 1909      ...      63



Dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	11
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Representations made to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	none
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Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	none
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The number of Dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	11
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The principal defects were:—general dilapidation, excessive dampness, defective ventilation and sanitary arrangements.

<b>Bakehouses,</b>	These have all been systematically in-
<b>Dairies,</b>	spected and on the whole found satisfactory
<b>Cowsheds and</b>	and clean, but in four instances faults were
<b>Slaughter-houses.</b>	found as to whitewashing, and badly kept
	floors. The defects in each instance were
	rectified without delay.

<b>General</b>	According to the Report of your Sanitary
<b>Nuisances.</b>	Inspector the number of Nuisances dealt with during the year was 104.

These were caused by unclean pig-styes, defective drains and overflowing privies.

There were 5 cases of over-crowding.

These nuisances were all abated, in 20 instances by informal notice and in 84 by serving statutory notice.

<b>Workshops and</b>	The Workshops and Bakehouses on the
<b>Workplaces.</b>	register for the year numbered 25.

These have all been systematically and periodically inspected and the defects comprise : --seven cases of want of cleanliness, one of over-crowding, three of want of drainage of floors and one of defective sanitary accommodation. These defects were all remedied without reference to H.M.'s Inspector, and no prosecutions were necessary.

**Pollution of Watercourses.** The condition of the Bourne Eau remains as in my previous Reports, and so far as pollution is concerned seems likely to remain so, but in regard to the silting up of the river bed and basin there seems to be a ray of hope, since during the year a scheme for the drainage of the South Fen and the adjacent Thurlby Fen has been put before the Board of Agriculture and one of its provisions includes the cleansing of the bed of the Bourne Eau.

May this eventuate ! and if it does will you see to it that the cleansing includes the basin up to its junction with the Carr Dyke at its western end.

Mention of the Carr Dyke reminds me of a recent visit of inspection to the Rural Council's Infectious Hospital, which is about to make use of that stream to receive its sewage effluent. The sewage disposal as shown on the plans submitted at the public inquiry, held by the Local Government Board, was to be by septic tank treatment and thence by open jointed pipes across a considerable interval of land into the Carr Dyke. At my visit I found that the septic tank was in course of construction at a point nearest the Dyke and that the effluent was to be led from the tank practically direct into the stream. I do not doubt that this alteration has been submitted to, and received the sanction of, the Local Government Board, but all the same I think your Council should have been apprised of it ; small though it may have been, I resent the loss of that land filtration and so I place the matter on record.

Appended will be found the usual Tables dealing with Vital Statistics, Infant Mortality, Infectious Disease, and Factory and Workshops, and in recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., full attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GILPIN.






TABLE 1.  
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non-residents register'd in the District	of Residents not register'd in the District	Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	4379	89		20·3	60	13·4	7	6	9	101·2	59	13·2
1910	4408	111		25·2	90	20·4	18	2	17	153·1	74	16·8
1911	4344	84		18·8	52	11·8	8	3	8	97·6	47	10·5
1912	4344	88		20·2	49	11·05	6	2	5	56·8	45	10·3
1913	4380	102	98	22·3	65	14·8	7	5	10	98	59	13·4
1914	4340	71	70	15·9	67	15·4	12	11	11	157·1	66	15·2

At Census 1911—Total population at all ages, 4344.—Total families or separate occupiers 965.  
Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 9775.



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TABLE II.  
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox .. ..									
Cholera .. ..									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	2		1		1				
Erysipelas .. ..									
Scarlet fever .. ..	14		12	1	1				
Typhus fever .. ..									
Enteric fever .. ..									
Relapsing fever .. ..									
Continued fever .. ..									
Puerperal fever .. ..									
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. ..									
Poliomyelitis .. ..									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1			1			1 to Sanatorium	
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	6	2	1		2	1			
Totals .. ..	25	3	1	14	1	5	1		

Isolation Hospital—Isolation Buildings, Manor Lane, Urban District.



TABLE III.  
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.  
Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes										
} Certified.										
} Uncertified.										
Enteric Fever .. .. .										
Small-pox .. .. .										
Measles .. .. .	2	1		1						2
Scarlet Fever .. .. .										
Whooping Cough .. .. .										
Diphtheria and Croup .. .. .										
Influenza .. .. .	2								2	2
Erysipelas .. .. .										
Phthisis/Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1							1		2
Tuberculous Meningitis .. .. .	3	2						1		3
Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .	2				1	1				2
Cancer, malignant disease .. .. .	8						1		4	11
Rheumatic Fever .. .. .										
Meningitis .. .. .	3		1					2		3
Organic Heart Disease .. .. .	3							1	2	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	1								1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .										
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs .. .. .									1	5
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .. .. .	5	3	1					1		1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. .. .	1							1		1
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	1									
Alcoholism .. .. .								2		3
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .. .. .	3	1								
Puerperal Fever .. .. .										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .. .. .										
Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation, including Premature Birth .. .. .	4	1								4
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. .. .										
Suicide .. .. .									11	15
Other Defined Diseases .. .. .	11							1	4	5
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5									
Totals .. .. .	55	11	2	1	1	1	1	13	25	67





TABLE IV.  
BOURNE URBAN DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages  
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week		1-2 Weeks		2-3 Weeks		3-4 Weeks		Total under 4 weeks		4 weeks and under 3 months.		3 months and under 6 months.		6 months and under 9 months.		9 months and under 12 months.		Total Deaths under 1 year.	
	Certified { Uncertified																			
All Causes {																				
Small-pox ..																	1		1	
Chicken-pox ..																				
Measles ..																				
Scarlet fever ..																				
Whooping Cough ..																				
Diphtheria and Croup ..																				
Erysipelas ..																				
Tuberculous Meningitis ..																				
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..																				
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																				
Meningitis ..																				
(not Tuberculous)																				
Convulsions ..																				
Laryngitis ..																				
Bronchitis ..																				
Pneumonia (all forms) ..																				
Diarrhea ..																				
Enteritis ..																				
Gastritis ..																				
Synpilis ..																				
Rickets ..																				
Suffocation, overlying ..																				
Injury at Birth ..																				
Atelectasis ..																				
Congenital Malformations ..																				
Premature birth ..																				
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..																				
Other causes ..																				
Totals ..	1		2				1				2		2		1		2		11	

Nett Births in the year—legitimate 68, illegitimate 2. Nett Deaths in the year—legitimate infants 10, illegitimate infants 1



TABLE V.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1914, for  
The Urban District of Bourne,  
on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

**1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces,**  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	No. of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> .. (Including Factory Laundries)	18	1	
<b>Workshops</b> .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	36	7	
<b>Workplaces</b> ..			
Total ..	54	8	Nil

**2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ..	7	7		
Want of ventilation ..				
Overcrowding ..	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors ..	3	3		
Other nuisances ..				
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient				
unsuitable or defective	1	1		
not separate for sexes ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ..				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other offences ..				
Total ..	12	12	Nil.	Nil.

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Number.

(2)

25

Notified by H.M. Inspector . .

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1915.